

Serial No. 10/671,291**Atty. Doc. No. 2003P14216US****In The Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An outer air seal assembly for reducing leakage proximate a ~~fluid guide component turbine engine blade tip~~ having a predetermined direction of rotation, comprising:

5 a first ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from a central axis by a predetermined first distance, said first outer air seal segment ~~boundary member~~ characterized by a first interface edge and an opposite second interface edge, said first outer air seal segment second edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom;

10 a second outer air seal segment ~~boundary member~~ radially spaced apart from said central axis by a predetermined second distance, said second outer air seal segment ~~boundary member~~ being characterized by a first interface edge and an opposite second interface edge, said second outer air seal segment ~~boundary member~~ first edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream
15 therefrom, said second ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment first edge being disposed proximate and substantially parallel to said first ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment second edge and spaced apart therefrom by an interface gap disposed therebetween;

wherein said interface gap includes a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion, said radially-skewed portion being rotationally-downstream from said radially-aligned
20 portion of second ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment first edge and having a radially-inward region and a radially-outward region, said radially-outward region being rotationally-upstream of said radially-inward region,

whereby said outer air seal segment interface edges are constructed and arranged to cooperatively reduce pulse loading tendencies of a fluid passing radially away from said blade
25 and through said interface gap.

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2 (Currently Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said interface gap separates said first and second outer air seal segments ~~boundary members~~ circumferentially.

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3 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a blocking panel disposed within said interface gap.

4 (Canceled).

5 (Previously Presented). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a
10 blocking panel disposed within said interface gap.

6 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 5, wherein said blocking panel is disposed within said radially-aligned region.

7 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a partition member extending into said interface gap, wherein a serpentine-shaped pathway is formed
15 within said interference gap.

8 (Currently Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is disposed on said first ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment.

9 (Currently Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is disposed on said second ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment.

20 10 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is oriented in a substantially-radially-aligned manner with respect to said central axis.

11 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is oriented in a substantially-circumferentially-aligned manner with respect to said central axis.

12 (Currently Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, wherein said first
25 outer air seal segment ~~boundary member~~ further includes a radially-inward surface and a

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conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, whereby said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward surface.

13 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 12, wherein said conduit is fluidly
5 connected to said radially-skewed portion.

14 (Currently Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, wherein said second outer air seal segment boundary member further includes a radially-inward surface and a conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, whereby said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward
10 surface.

15 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 14, wherein said conduit is fluidly connected to said radially-skewed portion.

16 (Currently Amended). An outer air seal assembly for reducing leakage proximate a fluid guide component having a predetermined direction of rotation, comprising:
15 a first boundary member outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from a central axis by a predetermined first distance, said first boundary member outer air seal segment characterized by a first interface edge, an opposite second interface edge, and a radially-inward surface, said first outer air seal segment second edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom;

20 a second boundary member outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from said central axis by a predetermined second distance, said second boundary member outer air seal segment being characterized by a first interface edge, an opposite second interface edge, and a radially-inward surface;

said second boundary member outer air seal segment first edge being characterized by
25 a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream

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therefrom, said second ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment first edge being disposed proximate and substantially parallel to said first ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment second edge and spaced apart therefrom by an interface gap disposed therebetween;

wherein said interface gap includes a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion, said radially-skewed portion being rotationally-downstream from said radially-aligned portion of second ~~boundary member~~ outer air seal segment first edge and having a radially-inward region and a radially-outward region, said radially-outward region being rotationally-upstream of said radially-inward region;

a blocking panel disposed within said interface gap;

a partition member partition member extending into said interface gap, wherein a serpentine-shaped pathway is formed within said interference gap; and

a conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, wherein said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward surfaces,

whereby said outer air seal segment interface edges are constructed and arranged to cooperatively reduce pulse loading tendencies of a fluid passing radially away from said blade and through said interface gap.

17 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said interface gap separates said first and second outer air seal segments ~~boundary members~~ axially.

18 - 20 Cancelled.

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21 (New). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said outer air seal segments are disposed radially-outward of and separated from a plurality of turbine engine fluid guide member assemblies.

22. (New). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 21, wherein said outer air seal
5 segments are constructed and arranged to substantially encircle a stage of turbine engine blades and block fluid directed radially away from said blades.

23 (New). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 16, wherein said outer air seal segments are disposed radially-outward of and separated from a plurality of turbine engine fluid guide member assemblies.

10 24. (New). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 23, wherein said outer air seal segments are constructed and arranged to substantially encircle a stage of turbine engine blades and block fluid directed radially away from said blades.